United Nations E/ICEF/2017/P/L.5

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
9 August 2017
English
Original: English/French/Spanish

For decision

United Nations Children's Fund
Executive Board
Second regular session 2017
12-15 September 2017
Item 8 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Country programme document

Bulgaria

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Bulgaria is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of $4,215,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $11,500,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2018 to 2022.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, the present document reflects comments made by Executive Board members on the draft CPD that was shared 12 weeks before the second regular session of 2017.

* E/ICEF/2017/14.

17-13713X (E) 110817

Please recycle

Programme rationale

1. Bulgaria, a member of the European Union since 2007, is an upper-middle-income country with a population of 7,150,000 in 2015, of whom 1,190,000 (16.6 per cent) are children.[1] According to the last census (2011), the main ethnic groups are: Bulgarian (84.8 per cent), Turkish (8.8 per cent) and Roma (4.9 per cent). With a Human Development Index of 0.782, Bulgaria is in the high human development category, ranking 59 out of 188 countries and territories.

2. Children's issues have remained high on the national policy agenda and significant progress has been achieved in key areas, with support from UNICEF and other partners. Particular progress was made in deinstitutionalization of children, early childhood development (ECD), and preschool and school education, as well as access to justice. Bulgaria is also increasingly providing technical assistance to other countries for advancing child rights, by sharing its knowledge and experience through horizontal cooperation.

3. The Government has preserved macroeconomic stability, while the country is striving to converge towards European Union standards in terms of socioeconomic development and social cohesion. Income per capita is 47 per cent of the European Union average and the lowest in the union.[2] A key challenge continues to be the disparity between the general population and some vulnerable groups. The Gini coefficient of 37 (after social transfers) is among the highest in the European Union, indicating significant income inequalities.[3]

4. Almost half of Bulgarian children (43.7 per cent,[4] or 527,200 children[5]) live at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Children in situations of particular vulnerability and marginalization are those living in poor households, in families with more than three children or with a single parent, children who belong to Roma and Turkish ethnic groups, children who are out of school, children with disabilities, children from migrant and refugee families (especially unaccompanied and separated children), and children in residential care.

5. During the last 14 years, the average infant mortality rate (6.6 per 1,000 live births in 2015)[6] has been almost halved, but is still twice higher than the European Union average, and in some parts of the country almost three times higher than the national average. Although neonatal mortality (4 per 1,000 live births in 2015) has declined steadily, it continues to be higher than the average for the European Union (2.5 per 1,000 live births[7]).

6. As many as 9.5 per cent of live births are from adolescent girls and young women aged below 20, while in some regions the percentage is even higher.[8] The main determinants of adolescent pregnancies relate to early initiation of sexual activity and risky adolescent behaviour.[9] The key barriers are insufficient sexual and health education in

[1] National Statistical Institute (NSI), www.nsi.bg/en/.
[2] Eurostat, http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/GDP_per_capita,_consumption_per_capita_and_price_level_indices.
[3] www.nsi.bg/en/content/8294/poverty-and-social-inclusion-indicators-national-level.
[4] European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions.
[5] www.nsi.bg/en/content/8294/poverty-and-social-inclusion-indicators-national-level.
[6] www.nsi.bg/en/content/6635/infant-deaths-under-1-year-age-districts-and-sex.
[7] Annual report on the ' ealth of the citizens in the Republic of Bulgaria and the implementation of the National Health Strat.gy, 2015, www.mh.government.bg.
[8] www.nsi.bg/en/content/6617/births.
[9] Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC), 2013/2014. See www.hbsc.org.

schools and lack of information about available youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services.

7. Over the past few years, significant efforts were made to improve child health and development during early childhood. New measures have been incorporated into national strategic policies on health and deinstitutionalization. Services for ECD were established across the country, focusing on parenting support and family counselling, early intervention, inclusion of children with disabilities in early education, health promotion, and early education and care.

8. Public education in Bulgaria is free of charge and the national legislation provides for compulsory preschool education starting at age 5. The enrolment rate in preschool education has reached 90 per cent; however, fewer than 80 per cent of children aged 3 to 4 attend kindergarten.[10] The enrolment rate in primary education is 93.2 per cent, in lower secondary 78.3 per cent, and in upper secondary 81.5 per cent.[11] Each year, about 1,000 school-age children do not enrol in school, while in the 2014/2015 school year, about 14,500 children dropped out from primary and lower-secondary education. Learning outcomes also fall below expectations, as Bulgaria ranks 45 among 72 countries that took part in the Program for International Student Assessment, which showed that over 40 per cent of children performed below basic proficiency. Bulgaria has one of the lowest investment levels in education in the European Union: 4.1 per cent of gross domestic product (2014).[12]

9. Inequities persist, especially ethnic disparities: for example, 45 per cent of Roma children do not attend preschool and 15 per cent do not attend school.[13] As for children with disabilities, only about half are integrated into mainstream education, and it is estimated that about 8,000 are out of school.[14] The main barriers to accessing education are related to poverty and inability to pay hidden costs, low level of education of the parents, health problems, poor command of the official language, stereotypes and prejudice.

10. Bulgaria has made impressive progress in childcare reform and in ensuring the right of the child to live in a caring and supportive family environment The number of children in the old-type residential institutions dropped significantly:[15] from 7,587 in 2010 to 1,232 in June 2016. The ambitious National Strategy Vision on Deinstitutionalization of Children in Bulgaria led to the closing of all institutions for children with mental disabilities and almost half of the institutions for children under age 3. This progress has been made possible through the establishment of a large network of foster care families and family-type homes for children. One third of children in foster care (766 out of 2,312 as of September 2015) are below age 3, and more than 6,000 children are in kinship care.[16]

11. This progress notwithstanding, many children are separated from their families every year. Children from marginalized communities and children with disabilities are at highest risk. The main bottlenecks are the lack of quality services for children and insufficient resources allocated to support families. Other determinants of this separation include stigma

[10] NSI.
[11] Ibid.
[12] Eurostat.
[13] European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, "The situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States - Survey results at a glance", 2012.
[14] Estimate based on data from the Agency on Social Assistance and TransMonEE.
[15] http://www.asp.government.bg/web/guest/godisen-otcet.
[16] Ibid.

and prejudice, adolescent pregnancies, and (in some Roma communities) child marriage. The 2016 updated Action Plan for Implementation of the National Strategy Vision for Deinstitutionalization of Children clearly articulates the way forward for the childcare reform and intensifies the focus on prevention of family separation.

12. Since the adoption of the Child Protection Act in 2000, Bulgaria has built a child protection system that also addresses prevention and identification of and response to violence against children. Corporal punishment is prohibited by the Child Protection Act, the Family Code (2009) and the Law on Preschool and School Education (2015). Whereas in February 2017 the Council of Ministers approved the National Programme for the Prevention of Violence and Abuse of Children, violence against children continues to be a major issue. Recent studies show key determinants to be high societal tolerance and acceptance of violence and weak understanding of some its emerging forms, such as online sexual exploitation of children and abuse. As many as 68 per cent of parents[17] accept the use of "reasonable violence" as a means of discipline, and few major programmes exist to support parents to use non-violent disciplinary measures. In 2015, the Child Protection Departments received 3,741 notifications of violence against children and opened 957 cases after investigation. Registered cases are predominantly about severe abuse at home.

13. While since 2011 the Government has made significant efforts to introduce a modern juvenile justice system, the legal framework is still not aligned with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and related international standards. The draft Diversion and Implementation of Educational Measures Act and the amendments to the Penal Code and Penal Procedure Code, which are still pending approval, are expected to represent a breakthrough in replacing the punitive approach with socio-educative interventions based on the individual adolescent's needs. The adoption of the Act will be an important first step to providing children with equitable access to justice in the country, while the administration of justice is introducing new practices to prevent the re-victimization of child victims and witnesses of crimes. The full implementation of international standards related to the treatment of children in the administration of justice, however, will require amendments to several legal bodies to ensure primary consideration of the best interests of the child and respect for the right of the child to be heard in any judicial/administrative proceeding.

14. Other positive developments are the engagement of the Ombudsman in monitoring the situation of vulnerable children, the improved capacity of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for reporting on children rights, and the information system recently launched by the Agency for Social Assistance, which is expected to improve data collection on child protection. To better address the deprivations faced by the most disadvantaged children and families and reduce equity gaps, several bottlenecks will need to be overcome. These include the paucity of disaggregated data, the lack of uniform methods of collecting and analysing information, and the persistent gaps in the national child monitoring systems.

15. Child rights awareness among the public needs strengthening. Media continue to be the main channel for communication, advocacy and resource mobilization in support of child rights. Whereas both traditional and social media have enormous potential to promote changes in social norms, attitudes and behaviours, ethical reporting on children's issues remains a challenge. Improvement in reporting and professionalism in dealing with the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children are needed to strengthen media's contribution

[17] National Centre for Public Opinion Research, 2012.

to influencing public opinion and nurturing child-friendly social norms. Another challenge is the underrepresentation of children and adolescents in the media.

16. The results achieved through ongoing Bulgaria–UNICEF partnership have resonated well with the public, as evidenced by the growing number of individuals and corporate partners supporting the realization of child rights in the country. More than 80,000 individuals and 700 businesses contributed to UNICEF-supported programmes during 2013–2016. Some strategic corporate partnerships are recognized as best practices for integrated corporate engagement and corporate social responsibility, both in Bulgaria and worldwide.

17. The Government of Bulgaria has played an active role in promoting child rights internationally as a member of UNICEF Executive Board (2013–2015) and as its Vice-President (2014), and as co-founder of the Group of Friends of Children and Sustainable Development Goals at the United Nations. The country has put children's rights at the centre of its Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, highlighting the Strategy for the Rights of the Child, launched in Sofia in April 2016. The Government has also provided its largest bilateral contribution to UNICEF — in Georgia for a project focusing on children with disabilities. UNICEF has supported the sharing of good practices of Bulgaria outside its borders and facilitated horizontal cooperation in childcare reform, ECD, education and adolescents and youth, with several countries in the region.

18. Bulgaria is prone to natural disasters, such as floods, heavy snowfalls isolating mountainous populations, and seismic activity. The potential impact on children and families ranges from damage to households and assets to human casualties. The Government has capacity to respond as well as access to significant financial support from the European Union in the event of an emergency, but there is a need to introduce a child- and gender-sensitive approach in the preparedness and response. Since 2013, the country has experienced an influx of asylum-seekers. In 2016, a total of 19,418 migrants and refugees applied for international protection. Approximately 30 per cent of them were children, including unaccompanied and separated children.[18] The Government made efforts to improve the reception conditions and ensure that the basic needs of asylum-seekers related to shelter, food and medical are met. UNICEF provided support to national partners to meet the needs of children and to improve the protection of unaccompanied and separated children.

Programme priorities and partnerships

19. The main conclusion from the 2015 midterm review (MTR) of the previous country programme was that the evolving partnership between UNICEF and Bulgaria should continue to have a strong equity focus, while at the same maximizing the potential of the country to support and promote child rights globally. Partners highlighted as a key strength of UNICEF its integrated approach in combining policy advice and technical assistance, fostering national dialogue, modelling, building alliances, leveraging public and private resources, including from the European Union and other related entities and funds, and facilitating horizontal cooperation and sharing of the knowledge and experience of Bulgaria. A significant lesson learned highlighted by the MTR is that results for children in

[18] State Agency for Refugees, www.aref.government.bg/?cat=21.

all areas are hindered by gaps in cross-sectoral coordination. National partners reiterated their full commitment to improving sectoral integration and fostering greater synergies.

20. Building on the results from past cooperation, the overarching goal of the programme is to support Bulgaria in its efforts to enable all children and adolescents in the country, including the most disadvantaged, to enjoy their rights and develop to their full potential in an inclusive and protective society, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The country partnership will also be guided by the two Conventions on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well by the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021. It will contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016–2021) and the European Commission Recommendation, "Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage". The country partnership is fully aligned with national priorities and will support government efforts to build an inclusive society, as described by the Europe 2020 Strategy. The evolving partnership between UNICEF and Bulgaria will also contribute to global efforts in advancing child rights through developing innovative approaches, leveraging resources and expertise, and facilitating horizontal cooperation and sharing the knowledge and experience of Bulgaria with other countries.

21. The following four programme components have been informed by recommendations from annual reviews with national partners and the 2015 MTR, including through national consultations with 7,000 girls and boys.

Early childhood development and child care

22. Building on the results achieved in ECD, the country partnership will support the design, implementation and monitoring of national policies so as to ensure comprehensive support for ECD for the most disadvantaged children. This includes interventions to strengthen the capacities of caregivers to provide nurturing care, to increase the understanding of the child's social, emotional and cognitive development, and to create greater demand for ECD services. Working closely with the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, UNICEF will support changes in legislation, institutional arrangements, budget allocations and enhanced coordination to better address inequalities in access to quality ECD services for all children. Critical to achieving results will be addressing harmful practices and supporting positive parenting, early detection of children at risk of developmental difficulties, and detection of children exposed to neglect, violence and abuse.

23. In line with the National Health Strategy 2014–2020, the capacity of the health-care system will be strengthened to enable young children to develop to their full potential during the first three years of life. UNICEF will work with the Ministry of Health so that the regulatory framework and relevant guidelines incorporate systematic monitoring and support for the development of young children. Collaboration on home visiting will continue through validation, costing and dissemination of lessons learned from UNICEF modelling work, to enable the planned nationwide adoption and scale-up.

24. The country partnership will continue to support childcare reforms and deinstitutionalization, through strengthening the child and social protections systems to progressively realize the right of every child to live in a family environment. UNICEF will focus on the development and implementation of intersectoral policies and interventions to strengthen the child protection system's capacity to identify, prevent and respond to risks

for children and the drivers of separation, including violence, and to provide integrated case management and family support.

25. Efforts will focus on developing quality standards and assurance mechanisms and on improving coordination to enhance the impact of social services and alternative-care settings (such as foster care and small group homes). The child protection system will be strengthened and better integrated with other social sectors—especially the social protection system— and be well-resourced and accountable. The capacity to protect children in emergency situations will also be addressed.

26. The country partnership will employ a combination of communication for social change, advocacy and awareness-raising targeting specific audiences to enhance an enabling environment in which early childhood development is recognized and systematically pursued as a foundation for lifelong health, development and well-being.

Inclusive education and early learning

27. This component will support national efforts towards the progressive realization of the right to every child to quality and inclusive education. The New Law on Preschool and School Education has laid the foundation for introducing inclusive education in all kindergartens and schools and for strengthening measures to reduce school dropout. UNICEF will continue to partner with the Ministry of Education and Science, municipalities, kindergartens, schools and NGOs to promote more inclusive practices, develop the capacities of teachers, transform the physical environment, engage parents, prevent violence, and meet the diverse needs of children. Evidence and knowledge generated will inform the national policy framework on inclusive education. Awareness-raising and support to inclusive education among parents, civil society, professionals and the Government will be strengthened through communication for social change.

28. The reduction of the number of early school-leavers is one of the main objectives of this component. UNICEF will provide technical expertise for the implementation of the National Strategy on reducing the share of early school-leavers and for the effective functioning of the early warning system for identifying children out of school and at risk of dropping out. Identified by several surveys as particularly vulnerable, Roma adolescent girls will be the central actors of an integrated approach for addressing gender roles and social norms. This approach will be tested in selected municipalities in partnership with schools, Roma communities and NGOs. UNICEF will focus on validating, costing and documenting models of flexible and innovative interventions for ensuring access of vulnerable children to quality early education, with a view to scaling up. This component will also contribute to the introduction of teaching about child rights, health and citizenship in schools and to the facilitation of the participation of children and adolescents.

Prevention of violence, protection of victims and access to justice for all children

29. The realization of the right of every child to live free from violence, abuse, exploitation and harmful practices will be a cross-cutting element throughout the country partnership. UNICEF will continue to work with the Government to strengthen national capacities to prevent, identify, respond to and address violence against children, providing redress to child victims. Building on progress achieved, this component will contribute to the implementation of the National Programme for Prevention of Violence and Abuse of Children, the reform of legislation, the strengthening of mechanisms to report violence and abuse, and data collection. A key strategy will be the direct engagement with children to

increase their awareness about their own rights and about the mechanisms and tools to report violence. UNICEF will support the testing of multidisciplinary services (social, legal, psychological, medical) for child victims of violence and the establishment of additional safe and accessible channels for children to denounce violence.

30. Children's access to justice will be enhanced through expected amendments to several laws to ensure that the best interests of the child are given primary consideration, and through the setting up of new rules and policies for equitable access to justice for children. This will involve the institutionalization of training programmes for police officers, prosecutors, judges and lawyers. In juvenile justice, UNICEF will support the implementation of the proposed Diversion and Educational Measures Act by developing procedures for the administration of justice for children in conflict with the law, drafting secondary legislation, creating training packages for the relevant professionals and designing diversion mechanisms and alternative measures. Specialized legal consultation and legal aid for child participants in judicial proceedings, including for refugee and migrant children, will be made available.

Partnerships for monitoring, communication and promotion of child rights in Bulgaria and globally

31. While partnerships have been instrumental to achieving results in all areas, this component will focus on building new alliances with children and adolescents, State institutions, media, civil society and the private sector for monitoring, communication and advocating for children's rights in Bulgaria and globally. Building on the role of UNICEF as a convener around child rights issues, the country partnership will continue to support the engagement of a wide range of partners in joint efforts around priority and emerging issues, such as support to families and children, countering violence against children, and the inclusion of all children in mainstream education.

32. This component will support the National Statistical Institute and other national information systems in the collection and analysis of disaggregated and gender-sensitive data, and to identify the most vulnerable groups of children and the bottlenecks to the realization of their rights. Support will also be provided to the State Agency for Child Protection and to independent human rights institutions, especially the Office of the Ombudsman, to effectively monitor and promote child rights and to investigate child rights violations. UNICEF partnerships with academia, research institutes and civil society will be further strengthened to enable regular, independent child rights monitoring, including on the situation of refugee and migrant children.

33. Traditional, digital and social media platforms will be used to reach new audiences. UNICEF will help to improve the skills of key journalists, media practitioners, media students and NGOs to communicate ethically on child issues. A special focus will be on raising public awareness and building shared understanding about the specific vulnerabilities, evolving capacities and opportunities associated with adolescence. The engagement of adolescents as agents of change will be a cross-cutting element in all programme areas.

34. The partnership with the private sector will promote solidarity and social change that benefit all children, in the country and internationally. Corporate engagement with the business sector will be further developed through an integrated approach, including resource mobilization, corporate social responsibility and advocacy initiatives. UNICEF will build on its resource mobilization from individual monthly donors, currently

numbering around 30,000 people, and will combine this engagement with communication for social change to create a group of supporters for children. In parallel, UNICEF will continue to support the Government, local authorities and NGOs in leveraging European Union and related resources.

35. The partnership between Bulgaria and UNICEF will contribute to advancing the child rights agenda within the European Union, in the region and worldwide, by strengthening horizontal cooperation and official development assistance, linking them to issues related to children. UNICEF will support the Government and civil society partners for the implementation of the Programme on Development Assistance and Humanitarian Aid through knowledge-generation, documenting good practices and sharing Bulgarian expertise and experience with other countries. A special focus will be on facilitating bilateral cooperation with countries in the Western Balkans and the Black Sea region. Bulgaria will assume the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2018, taking this good opportunity to influence the policy dialogue of the European Union on children's issues, aiming to place them at the top of the political agenda.

Programme effectiveness

36. This component will include activities related to the coordination and implementation of the country partnership, and will provide cross-cutting support to all programme areas.

Summary budget table

Programme component	*(In thousands of United States dollars)*		
	Regular resources	*Other resources*	*Total*
Early childhood development and care	1 215	4 300	5 515
Inclusive education and early learning	750	3 000	3 750
Protection from violence and access to justice	500	2 750	3 250
Partnerships for monitoring, communication and promotion of child rights	500	1 200	1 700
Programme effectiveness	1 250	250	1 500
Total	**4 215**	**11 500**	**15 715**

Programme and risk management

37. This CPD outlines UNICEF contributions to national and international results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to country programmes are prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures.

38. The UNICEF country management team will coordinate the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the country partnership and will ensure

compliance with UNICEF programme and operational policies and procedures. Workplans will be developed with national partners to operationalize the partnership and will be monitored through periodic reviews.

39. The main risks relate to political instability, deterioration of the country's economic and financial situation, and a natural disaster or humanitarian crisis. To mitigate these risks, UNICEF will work with a wide range of partners, supporting the leveraging of resources for children and ensuring that emergency and disaster risks are regularly monitored, and their potential impact assessed.

Monitoring and evaluation

40. Progress towards the established goals of this country partnership will be monitored using the indicators contained in the results and resources framework through midyear and annual review meetings with all key partners, which will also serve as a platform for joint planning, assessment and adjustments in the country partnership.

41. Surveys, independent assessments and research will be carried out to gain a deeper understanding of specific situations, vulnerabilities, and social norms related to children and adolescents in priority areas, particularly prevention of violence, access to justice and adolescents' development and engagement. Major planned evaluations will cover ECD and education (the Home Visiting Services and Inclusive preschool and school education programmes, respectively) and will be conducted jointly with the Government and concerned partners. The findings will inform policymaking and programming and will contribute to horizontal cooperation with other countries.

42. UNICEF will work with national partners and other United Nations agencies to support national data-collection systems and capacities to support sound monitoring of national and international goals and commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Bulgaria – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2018-2022

Convention on the Rights of the Child: Articles 2, 6, 9, 12, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 28, 37, 39 and 40

National priorities: National Strategy for the Child, National Vision for Deinstitutionalization, National Health Strategy, National Strategy for Reducing Early School Leaving, National Programme for Prevention of Violence; Europe 2020 targets 4 (Education) and 5 (Fighting poverty and social exclusion); Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 16 and 17

Related draft UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018-2021 Goal Areas:[1] 1. Children survive and thrive, 2. All children learning, 3. All children are protected from violence and exploitation, and 4. Equity – a fair chance for all children

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)* RR	OR	Total
Outcome 1: By 2022, boys and girls, especially the most disadvantaged, benefit from a nurturing family and social environment to attain a high standard of development, health, learning and well-being.	Proportion of disadvantaged families[2] with children 0–2 years of age who received targeted counselling and support for promoting early childhood development (ECD) B (2016): 1% T (2022): At least 30%	Nationally representative surveys	The national policy framework is consolidated to ensure equitable access to services and support for ECD for all children. The child and social protection systems are strengthened to provide consolidated interventions to ensure the right of every child to live in a caring and supportive family environment	Parliament, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy , Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Finance, State Agency for Child Protection (SACP), State Agency for Refugees (SAR), ASA, Ombudsman, National Association of Municipalities (NAMRB), District Administrations	1 215	4 300	5 515
	# of children (disaggregated by gender, age, disability, refugee and migrant children) entering formal care every year B (Sep. 2015): 2,918 children T (2022): 10% reduction	Agency for Social Assistance (ASA)					

[1] The final version will be presented to the UNICEF Executive Board for approval at its second regular session of 2017.

[2] Disadvantaged families are defined as families living in poverty based on national data, collected through European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions.

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)* RR	OR	Total
				(DAs), Municipalities, European Community Representation, United Nations, academia, research institutes, non-governmental organizations (NGO)s, media, private sector, children, adolescents, professional organizations			
Outcome 2: By 2022, boys and girls, especially the most disadvantaged, are in school and benefit from improved inclusive, gender-responsive educational policies and practices.	Rate of school-age children out of school, by sex and education level B (2015): Preschool (3–4 years) 26.7% (girls 26.7%, boys 26.7%) Preschool (5–6 years) 17.6% (girls 18.2%, boys 17.1%) Primary 5.1 % (girls 5.2%, boys 5%) Lower secondary 4.5% (girls 5% girls, boys 4%) T (2022): Preschool (3–4 years) 20% Preschool (5–6 years) 10% Primary 3% Lower secondary 3%	UNESCO Institute for Statistics, National Statistical Institute (NSI)	Existence of tested mechanisms for implementation of inclusive practices and trained professionals to support inclusive education in kindergartens and schools Assessed and costed model for enabling access for children under 5 from disadvantaged families to early education is available for the Government Existence of multidisciplinary measures for reducing school dropout rates, including by preventing adolescent pregnancies and violence in school and engaging community-based support	Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Health, Regional Directorates of Education, Regional Resource Centres, NAMRB, DAs, municipalities, NGOs, universities, schools, kindergartens, European Community Representation, United Nations, World Bank, children and adolescents, media, private sector	750	3 000	3 750
	Number of dedicated school (and kindergarten) staff available (e.g., school psychologists, teachers, speech therapists, etc.) for children in need of support B (2016): 1,963	Ministry of Education and Science					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
	T (2022): 4,500						
	Early leavers from education and training, by sex B (2015): 13.4% (females13.4%, males13.3%) T (2022): 11%	Eurostat, NSI					
Outcome 3: By 2022, social services, the child protection system and the administration of justice more effectively prevent violence, protect child victims and ensure access to timely remedy to child participants in judicial procedures, including in humanitarian situations.	# of cases of violence against children identified, reported and addressed B (2015): 3,741 signals in the Child Protection Departments, 1,839 cases in the Child Protection Departments T (2022): At least 4,677 signals and at least 2,299 cases	Data from ASA, SACP	Targeted strategies to prevent violence against children are implemented by national institutions, and child victims receive holistic attention in child-sensitive services Children's rights are respected by the juvenile justice system, and a wide range of alternative measures facilitate the education and social integration of children in conflict with the law. Boy and girl participants in legal proceedings benefit from improved capacity of police officers, prosecutors, judges and lawyers and from the establishment of child-sensitive procedures.	Parliament, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, General Prosecutor, judiciary, SACP, SAR, ASA, Ombudsman, district and regional courts, Bar associations, NAMRB, DAs, municipalities, European Community Representation, United Nations, academia, research institutes, NGOs, media, children, adolescents, professional organizations	500	2 750	3 250
	Institutionalized, specialized and quality routine training on the rights of child participants in legal proceedings exists for police officers, prosecutors, judges and lawyers working with children in justice processes B (2017): None T (2022): Specialized and quality routine training on the rights of child participants in legal proceedings is institutionalized for police officers, prosecutors, judges and lawyers in their respective training institutions	Ministry of Justice					
	Justice system complies with the minimum standards laid down in the Beijing Rules of Justice B (2016): Partially complies	Ministry of Justice					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)* RR	OR	Total
	T (2022): Fully complies						
Outcome 4: By 2022, child rights are monitored, communicated and promoted through enhanced partnerships with State institutions, civil society, media, private sector, children and adolescents, and Bulgaria increasingly contributes to the advancement of child rights globally.	State institutions, the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), and network of child rights civil society groups are monitoring and regularly reporting on child rights violations B (2016): Child rights monitoring and reporting is not equity-based and excludes the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach children T (2022): Child rights monitoring and reporting is equity-based and includes the most vulnerable children # of complaints brought to the Ombudsman's Office by children per year that are followed up/acted upon B (2016): 6 T (2022): At least 30	Data and reports from government institutions, Ombudsman's Office and other NHRIs, civil society organizations	Effective mechanisms for monitoring child rights are developed and used by the state institutions, local authorities, civil society and professionals. State institutions and NGOs have increased capacity to support horizontal cooperation and to use official development assistance resources for advancing child rights Media, NGOs, professionals, children and adolescents are engaged in alliances for communication and promotion of child rights issues. Private-sector stakeholders support the advancement of child rights and provide increased resources in support of the most vulnerable children and adolescents in Bulgaria and globally.	Parliament, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, line ministries, NSI, Ombudsman, NHRIs, NGOs, NAMRB DAs, municipalities, United Nations agencies, European Community Representation, World Bank, academia, schools, universities, professional organizations, children and adolescents, research institutes, media, corporate partners, individual donors and supporters, small and medium enterprises	500	1 200	1 700
	# of partnerships engaged in communication and promotion of child rights B (2017): 10 T (2022): 15	Partnership agreements, media monitoring, Hootsuite, Google analytics, and similar systems					
	Contributions from the private sector (corporate partners and private individuals) for the country programme B (2013–2017): BGN 8,730, 000 T (2022): TBD Q3 2017	Financial data					
Outcome 5:	The country partnership is (a)	Mid-year and	Guidance, tools and resources to	All UNICEF	1 250	250	1 500

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)* RR	OR	Total
The country programme of cooperation meets quality standards in achieving results for children	effectively designed, (b) coordinated, (c) managed, and (d) supported B: Yes T: Yes	annual review meetings with partners; Joint assessments and evaluations with partners.	effectively and efficiently design and manage the programme are available to UNICEF and its partners. Guidance, tools and resources to effectively generate, analyse and utilize statistical and qualitative information for a child rights monitoring system are available in the country. Guidance, tools and resources for effective communication on child rights issues with stakeholders are available to UNICEF and its partners. Strategies to address cross-cutting issues related to child rights are developed and applied throughout the programme of cooperation.	partners in Bulgaria			
Total resources					**4 215**	**11 500**	**15 715**